

**IN THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner all of the pending claims are reproduced below whether amended or not. Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 1-11 and 13-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

19. (Amended) A [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, comprising:

[a keypad having a plurality of alphanumeric keys] an input device operable to receive a check amount from a user;

a display coupled to the [keypad] input device and operable to display the check amount entered by the user; and

a [check encoder] portable check printer coupled to the [keypad and display] input device and operable to receive the check amount from the [keypad] input device and encode the check amount in [a machine-readable format] magnetic ink at a predetermined location on a check [in response to the check amount received from the keypad].

20. (Amended) The [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, as set forth in claim 19, further comprising a memory coupled to the check [encoder] printer and operable to store and recall a list of payee names.

Please cancel Claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

22. (Amended) The [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, as set forth in claim [21] 19, wherein the [magnetic ink encoder] check printer is operable to encode the check amount [in magnetic ink] on a MICR line of the check.

23. (Amended) The [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the display is operable to display the list of recalled payee names and the [keypad] input device is operable to receive a payee selection input from the user.

24. (Amended) The [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, as set forth in claim 23, wherein the check [encoder] printer is further operable to print a selected payee name in a payee field on the check.

25. (Amended) The [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the check [encoder] printer is further operable to print the check amount alphabetically in an alphabetical amount field and numerically in a numerical amount field on the check.

26. (Amended) The [pocket-size personal] portable check [encoder] encoding device, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the check received by the check printer is a blank check, the blank check including an account number but not a payee name or check amount.

Please cancel Claims 27-30 without prejudice or disclaimer.